

19 July 1973

Mr. Tom Sewell

Dear Mr. Sewell:

I have just heard from Dr. Charles Reichardt of the  
Atomic Energy Commission with regard to the September 30,  
1946 letter to Colonel Quinn. He said AEC had no problems  
with this letter and you may consider it unclassified.

Sincerely,

Lawrence R. Houston  
Office of General Counsel

OGC:jeb  
cc: Asst to DCI-Mr. Thuermer  
DC/CI Ops  
SS/ISG  
OGC chrono  
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

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16 July 1973

Mr. Tom Sewell

Dear Mr. Sewell:

I have your letter of July 12, 1973, about using certain Government information in the book you are writing on Moe Berg.

In general, Government information which is not classified or otherwise controlled by law is in the public domain and is available for use by anyone who has a reason to use it. Under these circumstances, no release from the Government is necessary. As an instance, my letter to you of 26 March 1973 is unclassified and is, therefore, in the public domain, and you or anyone who wishes to use the information therein may do so freely. The same is true of the 9 August 1945 letter from Whitney Shepardson to Moe Berg.

As to the September 30, 1946, letter from Mr. Dix to Colonel Quinn, there is no reason from the OSS-CIA point of view why this should still be classified, but since it does discuss Mr. Berg's intelligence activities in the nuclear field, I have thought it necessary to refer it to the Atomic Energy Commission for a ruling as to whether any portion of it is still classified. If not, there is no problem, and I have asked

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that the Atomic Energy Commission either give its ruling to me to pass on to you or to deal with you directly.

In answer to your question about Mr. Berg's contract work with CIA, we cannot be of much help because apparently it was some sort of consultantship whereby matters in which he might have some competence would be discussed with him, but so far as I can make out he was not given any specific assignments. All of this was apparently in the 1950s, but I am sorry to say I do not have much more detail.

I hope to be in Westport Harbor around Labor Day, and if I do not get too tied up I will give you a call.

ST

Sincerely,

Lawrence R. Houston  
Office of General Counsel

cc: Dr. Charles H. Reichardt  
Special Assistant to the Director  
Division of Classification  
Atomic Energy Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20545

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